SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—The tract in question is well provided with roads. The proposal to make another road there cannot be sanctioned.

92. *Reduction of the acreage value for the registry of lands within the Quilon Cantonment.*

Mr. S. K. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Quilon) said that the decision of Government fixing an acreage value of Rs. 1,000 on the Quilon cantonment lands was hard and prayed that orders might be issued for the registry of the lands under the ordinary puduval rules.

Mr. D. G. Cameron of Quilon (Member, Nominated) said that, when the Cantonment was no longer required for military purposes and Government issued pattahs to the holders of lands and collected taxes, it was assumed that those lands would be treated in the same way as adjoining and similar lands all over Travancore. The owners of lands on the opposite side of the road were allowed to settle when and where they liked and they were granted fixity of tenure on payment of 25 times the assessment. The owners of the cantonment lands were, on the other hand, accorded an anomalous treatment and they were asked to pay an entirely prohibitive and impossible price, which even 10 per cent of the 200 owners could not pay, even if they were willing. He pointed out that all would have been on the same footing had not the Cantonment been set apart for military purposes and that the entire land would have been occupied and settled long ago. The result of the high demand was, the Member said, stagnation of an even more pronounced type than obtained during the military occupation, as no one could afford to pay the price and one and all felt that improvements, which at any moment might be assumed by Government without compensation, were impossible. Owners had been looking forward to the resumption of the lands by Government, believing that the reasonable and equitable terms which had always been the rule with Government, would be extended to them. From time to time, parts of the Cantonment were handed back to Government, and in all such cases, the occupiers were granted fixity of tenure on payment of the usual vilayartham of 25 years' tax without question. He added that the grants made by the Military department in British Indian cantonments had been recognised by the Courts as giving a valid title, where Cantonments as such had ceased to exist. The Member requested a reconsideration of the matter in the light of the above circumstances.

Dewan's reply.—A survey of the Cantonment lands has been ordered for the purpose of settling them. Some

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

rules for the settlement of these lands have already been issued. As soon as the survey is over, the question whether these rules require any revision, will be considered before any settlement is finally done. I shall then look into the question of acreage value complained of.

PATHANAPURAM TALUK.

93. Construction of irrigation works.

Mr. Padmanabhan Narayanan (Member, Pathanapuram Taluk) said that, owing to the failure of the monsoon, cultivation suffered greatly in the taluk. Effect was not given to the provisions of the Irrigation Regulation relating to the construction of irrigation works. For that purpose, it was necessary to pass rules under the Regulation. This had been brought up by the Changanachery Member at the fourth session and action was promised after obtaining a report from the Peishkar.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

94. Opening of roads.

Mr. Padmanahhan Parameswaran (Member, Pathanapuram Taluk) requested that three roads might be opened in the taluk, *viz.*, (1) from Kunnicode to Pathanapuram, (2) from Kunnicode to Kalayapuram and (3) from Kunnicode to the Anchal market. The roads asked for were only 3, 4 and 5 miles respectively. When the subject was brought up last year, Government said that two of the roads had been included in the programme and that the works would be taken up as soon as funds became available. He prayed for the early construction of the roads.

Dewan's reply.—An investigation has been ordered in regard to the first road, and till that is over, nothing can be done. The roads from Kunnicode to Kalayapuram and to the Anchal market are not said to be important.

KUNNATTUR TALUK.

95. Opening of a dispensary at Adur.

Mr. K. N. Govinda Pillai (Member, Kunnattur Taluk) said that the people of the taluk had no facilities for medical aid and requested that a dispensary might be established at Adur or the one at Punalur transferred to Adur.

Dewan's reply.—A dispensary was tried at the place and was abolished two years ago as it was not found to be useful. The request of the Member is noted.

KARUNAGAPALLI TALUK.

96. Improvement of communications

Mr. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) requested that the following works might be carried out:—

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly